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Another letter from Liang Sen said that the Pin-yang Special Ch'u in Kwangsi Province originally subscribed to 14 copies of the Nung-min Pao but have since reduced their subscriptions to three. The cultural work brigade of the Pin-yang Military Subdistrict originally subscribed to seven copies of the Kwangsi Jih-pao, one copy of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, one copy of the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, and six copies each of the Ch'ang-chiang Wen-i, Jen-min Wen-hsueh, Wen-i Pao, and Shih-shih Shou-ts'e (Current Affairs Handbook), but all these subscriptions were canceled.

The propaganda and education section of the political department of the Pin-yang Military Subdistrict originally subscribed to nine copies of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao and carried single subscriptions to nine other newspapers including the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao and Chieh-fang Jih-pao; but all these subscriptions have been canceled.

A reader, Tzu Yuan, wrote: "In Ch'i-ch'un Hsien, Hupeh Province, there were 1,090 newspaper subscriptions, but the number has been reduced to 604. Certain organs of the hsien and other organizations have even gone so far as to include the cancellation of newspaper subscriptions in their austerity program. For instance, Chin Huan, the chairman of the hsien's Food Supply Bureau, said: 'Since the beginning of January, I have not subscribed to the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao. This saves me over 10,000 yuan: it's a good plan for economy.' This mistaken view of his was not shared by his comrades in the bureau who did not cancel their subscriptions."

Chang Shui-hua's letter said: "Since January 1951, all the sections of the People's government in Ying-shan Hsien, Hupeh Province, had subscribed to 11 copies of the Hupei Jih-pao, four copies of the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, and two copies of the Jen-min Jih-pao. As soon as the antiwaste campaign was proposed, they canceled nine subscriptions to the Hupei Jih-pao, one subscription to the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, and one subscription to the Jen-min Jih-pao. Moreover, they canceled their 24 subscriptions to the Shih-shih Shou-ts'e. The Public Security Bureau of the Ying-shan Hsien wrote to the post office department: 'We originally subscribed to eight copies of the Hupei Jih-pao, but in accordance with the Increase Production, Practice Economy Movement, we will subscribe to only four copies starting in February.' The public security units canceled all of their eight subscriptions to the Hupei Jih-pao. Subsidiary organs of the Ying-shan Hsien Party Committee canceled their subscriptions to more than 100 publications."

Aside from these areas many other localities have also reduced or canceled their subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals.

Actually, for a majority of the organs in the various areas the question of canceling subscriptions did not arise from oversubscription, but from inadequate organization of newspaper reading and the failure to use newspapers to promote work and for study. Those units which drastically reduced their subscriptions indicate their neglect of newspaper reading and their indifference to political thinking and education.

A letter from Chieh Fu criticized the Hupei Wu-yang Normal School for reducing its newspaper subscriptions: this school has subsequently corrected its error. In reply to the criticism leveled against it, the school said: "In regard to the question of subscriptions, the school leadership thought there were not very many readers in the classes subscribing to newspapers and the subscriptions were therefore wasteful. We did not realize that the small number of readers meant that we should carry on educational work and study how to increase the number of readers, how to organize the readers, and how to thoroughly educate the students in political thought so that they will be interested in current political affairs."

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

Did the units canceling or reducing their subscriptions subscribe to too many newspapers and publications? Most of the units did not oversubscribe. For instance, a reader, Liu Chang-fu, wrote: "The Party Committee of Hsu-ch'ang Hsien, Honan, and six units under it, among them the Youth Corps Working Committee, Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, Land Reform Committee, and People's militia department, originally subscribed to nine copies of the Honan Jih-pao, three copies of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, and one copy of the Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao. How can such large units as these employing so many workers claim they oversubscribed? Nevertheless, during the Three-Anti Movement they canceled six subscriptions to the Honan Jih-pao, which meant there were not enough copies for the readers."

All the letters from readers admitted that newspaper subscriptions should not be canceled on account of the economy program and emphasized that units reducing or canceling their subscriptions are thoroughly mistaken about the use of newspapers. Moreover, they deviate from the correct understanding of the significance and meaning of the Increase Production, Practice Economy Movement and are indifferent to reading newspapers and political affairs. I hope that readers will correct this tendency of reducing and canceling publication subscriptions.

#### Letter From Chang Yung-hua

After the launching of the Increase Production, Practice Economy Movement, the manifestation of subscriptions to publications being canceled reached serious proportions in the rural districts. Ch'u No 2 in Ying-shan Hsien, Hupeh Province, subscribed to 80 copies of the Chung-nan Nung-min, 80 copies of the Shih-shih Shou-ts'e; Ch'u No 5 subscribed to 15 copies of the Chung-nan Nung-min, 15 copies of the Shih-shih Shou-ts'e. But all these subscriptions have been canceled.

We are now in the very midst of energetically carrying on work to promote reading of publications in the rural districts in order to strengthen our political education work. The method of practicing economy by canceling publication subscriptions will certainly have repercussions on the development of this work. Moreover, it will prevent the raising of the political and cultural level of the peasants, and, finally, it will have serious repercussions on all types of work in the rural districts. This should be corrected.

#### Letter from Wen Chang

In the last half of 1950, the Chung-hsiang Hsien Circulation Committee distributed nearly 1,000 copies of various newspapers and organized about 800 newspaper reading groups. Early in 1951, circulation dropped to about 400 or 500 and there remain only 100 or more reading groups.

The Communist Party Committee of Chung-hsiang Hsien, Hupeh, convened a conference to investigate the reason for the drastic reduction in circulation of newspapers and to study methods to correct this situation. The committee believes that the most important reason for the outbreak of this manifestation is inadequate propaganda work and insufficient emphasis on the strengthening of newspaper reading groups. The conference decided to strengthen propaganda work and to work diligently to restore the 1950 volume of circulation.

- 3 -

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Letter From Chang Yunr

The workers at the branch store of the Yen-chia-chun Cooperative at Hsi-shui-kuan-k'ou Ch'u, Hupeh, retain a purely occupational outlook and remain aloof from politics. There are seven workers in this branch store who seldom read newspapers to which they subscribe; they use their newspapers for wrapping purposes, which is entirely wrong. I believe that these seven workers can organize a newspaper reading group, read the papers regularly, and establish political relations with the local masses. I hope this branch store will quickly correct this deviation of indifference to reading newspapers.

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- 4 -

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